



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3253-015]

Mad River Power Associates; Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. Type of Application: Subsequent Minor License
- b. Project No.: 3253-015
- c. Date Filed: November 3, 2020
- d. Applicant: Mad River Power Associates (MRPA)
- e. Name of Project: Campton Hydroelectric Project (project)
- f. Location: On the Mad River in Grafton County, New Hampshire. The project occupies approximately 0.05 acre of federal land administered by the U.S. Forest Service.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC 791(a) - 825(r)
- h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Ian Clark, Mad River Power Associates, 1 Pepsi Way, Suite 6n75, Katonah, NY 10536; Phone at (914) 297-7645, or email at info@dichotomycapital.com
- i. FERC Contact: Amanda Gill, (202) 502-6773 or amanda.gill@ferc.gov

j. Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-3253-015.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a final rule on July 15, 2020, revising the regulations under 40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1518 that federal agencies use to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (see Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 85 Fed. Reg. 43,304). The Final Rule became effective on and applies to any NEPA process begun after September 14, 2020. Commission staff intends to conduct its NEPA review in accordance with CEQ's new regulations.

l. Project Description: The project consists of: (1) a 22-foot-wide, 24-foot-high concrete intake structure located approximately 60 feet upstream of the U.S. Forest Service's Campton Dam on the east shoreline of the U.S. Forest Service's Campton Pond, that includes a 25-foot-long, 13-foot-high trashrack with 1.75-inch clear bar spacing; (2) a 600-foot-long, 78-inch-diameter underground steel penstock that trifurcates into three 48-inch-diameter sections measuring 20 feet, 30 feet, and 43 feet in length, respectively; (3) a 43-foot-long, 30-foot-wide powerhouse located on the east side of the Mad River that contains a 167-kW Francis turbine-generator unit; (4) two 236-kW submersible Flygt turbine-generator units located outside of the powerhouse; (5) an approximately 55-foot-long, 40-foot-wide tailrace; (6) a 200-foot-long transmission line and a 33.5-kilovolt transformer that connects the generators to the electric grid; (7) an Atlantic salmon smolt bypass facility consisting of an 85-foot-long, 20-inch diameter cast iron pipe that empties into an 3.5-foot-deep plunge pool approximately 15 feet downstream of the dam; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The project creates an approximately 600-foot-long bypassed reach of the Mad River.

The current license requires: (1) inflow to be discharged over the spillway to the bypassed reach during periods of non-generation or when inflow is less than 25 cfs; (2) a minimum flow of 4.5 cfs through the Atlantic salmon smolt bypass facility during periods of generation or when inflow is greater than 25 cfs; and (3) operation of the smolt bypass facility from mid-April to mid-June. The average annual generation of the project is currently approximately 1,170 megawatt-hours (MWh).

MRPA proposes to: (1) continue operating the project in a run-of-release mode; (2) replace one of the 236-kW Flygt turbine-generator units with a new 340-kW Flygt turbine-generator unit, for a total installed capacity of 743 kW at the project; (2) release a minimum flow of 29 cfs or inflow, whichever is less, over the dam to the bypassed reach; and (3) close the existing smolt bypass facility. MRPA estimates that the average annual generation of the proposed project will be approximately 1,900 MWh.

m. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may

obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. Each filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR §§ 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

You may also register online at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification. Please note that the certification request must comply with 40 CFR 121.5(b), including documentation that a pre-filing meeting request was submitted to the certifying authority at least 30 days prior to submitting the certification request. Please also note that the certification request must be sent to the certifying authority and to the Commission concurrently.

o. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

<u>MILESTONE</u>	<u>TARGET DATE</u>
Deadline for filing comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions	September 2021
Deadline for filing reply comments	October 2021

p. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Dated: July 7, 2021.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

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